

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A process for constructing a layout of an edition of a document, comprised the steps of:

storing in a database information relative to structure, arrangement and content of a layout of ~~a sheet~~ plural sheets of a document to be printed, the sheets including plural visual elements ~~sheet including at least one visual element~~, the information being stored in the database in fields that are interconnected by connections and including first fields that store a description of a content of the visual elements ~~at least one visual element~~, and second fields that store a description of an arrangement and presentation of the visual elements ~~at least one visual element~~ and [[of]] a structure of the layout;

displaying a visual representation of the layout on a first display based on the information in the database;

displaying the visual representation of the layout on a second display separate from the first display, the first and second displays being connected to the database by a network;

automatically controlling in real time spatial relationships between the visual elements on the sheets based on

predefined rules and graphic criteria so that a modification of one of the visual elements affects the other visual elements on the sheets, the predefined rules being based on at least one of a nature of the document, presentation standards, and a design of the sheets, and the graphic criteria taking into account at least one of hierarchical position of the visual elements and a visual impact of the visual elements relative to one another;

automatically controlling the first and second displays and the database so that all modifications of the layout made on the first display and on the second display are automatically made in the database and on the other of the first and second displays in real time and so that all modifications of the layout made in the database are automatically displayed on the first and second displays in real time; and

modifying the visual representation of the layout in one of the first display, the second display and the database by modifying at least one of the description of the content of ~~[[the]]~~ at least one visual element, ~~and of the arrangement and presentation of the visual elements, at least one visual element and of a~~ the structure of the layout.

21-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of defining plural containers that each contains at least one of the visual elements, each of

the containers of a same layout being automatically controlled between each other with respect to position and size.

26. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

a) associating, in the database, parameters with the visual elements permitting automatic and/or manual selection of the visual elements;

b) selecting from the database ones of the visual elements adapted to enter into the layout;

c) selecting and/or defining a design for the layout so as to create the information for the database;

d) selecting an order of implantation and locations of the selected visual elements on the layout; and

e) repeating steps a)-d) for each sheet of the document.

27. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of defining a hierarchy between the visual elements and automatically controlling a hierarchical arrangement among the visual elements so that a modification of one of the visual elements is automatically reflected in a modification of the hierarchical arrangement of the other visual elements.

28. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of storing in the database identifications associated with each of the visual elements and a

history of modifications of each of the visual element accessible by their identifications.

29. (previously presented) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of providing filters that control access to the layout as a function of an authorization of a user.

30. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein the step of controlling the spatial relationships includes automatically and simultaneously controlling the dimensions and positions of all the visual elements on all the sheets.

31. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing an interface that programs the information, and, through the interface, modifying the program for the information to simultaneously affect all the visual elements on all the sheets.

32. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein a same one of the visual elements appears on plural different ones of the sheets and wherein the step of modifying the visual representation of the layout includes modifying all of the same visual element on the different sheets by modifying only one of these same visual elements on one of the sheets.